[13th August 1954

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have gained in this transaction? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There is no question of gain in the transaction. The prices do not vary very largely."

SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" May I know, Sir, whether the prices paid by this Government in respect of these purchases compare favourably with the Andhra local market rates? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice, Sir."

*Produce of tobacco in this State during the years 1952–53 and 1953–54.*

* 122 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total produce of tobacco in this State during the years 1952–53 and 1953–54; and

(*b*) the chief tobacco producing areas in this State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The total produce of tobacco in this State during 1952–53 and 1953–54 is 19,800 and 28,100 tons respectively.

" (*b*) The chief tobacco producing areas are Coimbatore and Madurai districts and to a lesser extent Tiruchirappalli, Tanjore, South Arcot and South Kanara districts."

*Adoption of Japanese method of cultivation in South Arcot district.*

3-10 p.m. * 123 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Japanese method of cultivation has been adopted in South Arcot district;

(*b*) if so, how many acres have been cultivated under that method; and

(*c*) the difference in the quantity of produce between the Japanese method and the old methods?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) One thousand two hundred and two acres were cultivated under the modified Japanese method in the South Arcot district during the period from June 1953 to March 1954. It is proposed to bring 12,000 acres under this method of cultivation during the year 1954–55.

" (*c*) The average yield of paddy under the modified Japanese method is 4,421 lb. per acre as against 3,374 lb. per acre under the old method."

13th August 1954]

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" May I know what facilities the Government have given to the cultivators? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The officers of the Agriculture department give them the necessary guidance and the Government help the ryots to secure the best seeds and also give short-term loans for purchasing manure, etc."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" On a point of order, Sir. I wish to make a submission to the Chair. It is a very important right of hon. Members of this House to put supplementary questions and the proper procedure for doing so, is for hon. Members to catch the eye of the Hon. the Chairman. They cannot stand up or shout, as it is against parliamentary procedure. Therefore, I respectfully submit that after the reply of the Hon. Minister to the main question, the Hon. the Chairman should be pleased to look this side and that side of the House and call a particular hon. Member to put the supplementary question. To-day, unfortunately, that is not the case and the Hon. the Chairman is concentrating his attention on the file before him, so much so, most hon. Members are not able to put supplementary questions."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" The Chair is anxious to get through all the questions to-day."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" I do agree with the Chair in this respect but hon. Members who wanted to put supplementary questions have failed miserably as they could not catch the eye of the Hon. the Chairman. Therefore, I wish to bring this matter to the notice of the Chair."

*Number of elephants owned by Government departments of this State.*

* 124 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of elephants owned by Government departments of this State;

(*b*) how many of them are utilized in forests for felling down trees and transporting timber ; and

(*c*) the medical facilities that have been afforded to those elephants?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Eighty-eight.

" (*b*) Seventy-six.

" (*c*) Three officers of the Animal Husbandry department qualified in Veterinery Science are employed to afford medical facilities to the elephants maintained in the Forest department.

The seniormost of the three is in the gazetted rank designated as ' Inspector of Livestock ' with headquarters at Kozhikode.